

5. Public Safety Plan

A. Plan Overview

It is the goal of the Tempe Police Department to provide police and security services to ensure that the Rio Salado Town Lake and surrounding commercial and park areas remain safe, fun, and desirable places for people to live, work and play. The public safety plan provides an outline of the basic services to be provided by the Police Department with general operational guidelines. While every instance requiring a police response cannot be addressed, this plan provides a framework for decision making and a reference for Town Lake operations.

This plan is considered a “working draft” to be modified and amended as new information becomes available and decisions are made both in the police department and elsewhere in the City of Tempe relative to the Rio Salado Town Lake Project.

B. Security

The Rio Salado Town Lake was established by placing man-made inflatable dams on the east and west ends of the Salt River bed. This created a 220-acre lake in the northern section of the City of Tempe, which borders Downtown Mill Avenue and the campus of Arizona State University where 44,000 students attend class on the main campus. The perimeter of the lake consists of multi-modal paths, picnic areas, hiking trails with plans for commercial retail, recreational services, and private residential development. All of these variables pose different security challenges for the Police Department.

During the first year of Lake Operations the Police Department will provide security services through Bureau V of the Tempe Police Department. Bureau V is managed by a Lieutenant and directed by the North Patrol Division Commander. It consists of (4) Police Sergeants, (17) Police Officers, and (9) civilian Park Rangers. This bureau is responsible for Rio Salado Park / Town Lake security, Downtown Mill Avenue business district, and City of Tempe building security. Bureau V will operate from the temporary administrative office located on the north perimeter of the Town Lake with plans for a future, permanent police substation.

1. Rio Salado Park / Town Lake Coverage

To provide security for the Town Lake and Park the Police Department will combine the two current Bike Squads, six Park Rangers and two additional Bike Officers. The goal is to provide a security presence 7 days a week during peak activity periods on and around the lake.

While peak activity periods cannot be confirmed until the Lake is open to the community, the following assumptions are being made regarding scheduling of Police Officers and Park Rangers on the lake and in the park:

- I. Weekends will attract a large number of park users both on the lake and in the park.
- II. The park opens at 5:00 am and it closes at 12:00 midnight 7 days a week.

- III. Special events will occur on and around the lake requiring maximum staffing levels to include extra duty officers, Mounted Officers, Traffic Officers, other civilian employees and possibly assistance from outside law enforcement agencies.
- IV. The Police Department will assume security responsibilities for Rio Salado Park/Town Lake when construction is completed.
- V. Lake and park use could increase during peak periods in Downtown Mill Ave. when the community patronizes the downtown due to the close proximity.
- VI. Police Officers will provide approximately 180 hours of weekly coverage on the lake and in the park.
- VII. Park Rangers will provide approximately 240 hours of weekly coverage on the lake and in the park.
- VIII. The Police Department will assign at minimum, one police officer or one park ranger 7 days per week during all hours the park is open.
- IX. A work schedule for Police Officers and Park Rangers will be the responsibility of the Bureau V Lieutenant and it will be approved by the North Patrol Commander for lake and park security. It will be modified as needed to provide optimal public service.

2. Park Ranger Responsibilities

The Park Rangers assigned to the Rio Salado Park/Town Lake will provide a variety of pro-active and re-active security services including but not necessarily limited to the following:

- I. Act as Rio Salado Town Park/Lake ambassadors providing information to citizens regarding rules and regulations, and general city information.
- II. Making proactive contacts with citizens to prevent potential park and lake violations, pointing out safety concerns, and issuing verbal or written warnings.
- III. Monitoring traffic and parking concerns, handle parking violations, and provide traffic control when necessary.
- IV. Enforcing fishing regulations.
- V. Checking lake users for appropriate use permits.
- VI. Contacting police and or fire personnel in the event of a criminal or medical emergency.
- VII. Opening and securing all access points to the lake and park during hours of operation.
- VIII. Monitoring all city buildings and structures to include the lake dams, pump house facilities, park administrative buildings, ramadas, and picnic areas.
- IX. Assisting in the removal of capsized or damaged boats.
- X. Assisting in the evacuation of park and lake users in the event of an emergency.

3. Police Officer Responsibilities

Police Officers assigned to Bureau V will be responsible for all duties assigned to Park Rangers and the duties required of all Tempe Police Officers. Various methods will be utilized to provide pro-active and re-active police service on the lake and in the park and on the lake as follows:

- I. Bike Patrol
- II. Mounted Patrol
- III. Foot Patrol
- IV. Boat Patrol
- V. Motorized Vehicles – The Department will utilize other means of patrolling the area to include marked patrol cars and other Rio Salado utility vehicles.

C. Policy and Procedure

Policies and procedures established within the Tempe Police Department's General and Operational Orders will provide direction for Police Personnel assigned to the Rio Salado Park / Town Lake to carry out the above listed tasks.

D. Enforcement

The following Tempe Police enforcement philosophy, adopted as a guideline for all Tempe Police Officers, serves as general direction for Rio Salado Park / Town Lake enforcement; "The laws of the State of Arizona allow for the application to be made fairly, and within the spirit of the law, rather than blind adherence to the strict construction of a statute. Officers shall direct their efforts to the impartial application of the spirit of the law, for the purposes set forth in statutes" (Tempe Police General Order 01.102.B.)"

E. Emergency Assistance

In the event of an emergency involving illness or injury, or danger to life, the Tempe Police Department shall take reasonable steps to obtain needed medical, rescue or emergency assistance.

F. Special Events

The Tempe Police Department will assume primary responsibility for staffing and security coordination at all special events on and around the Rio Salado Park / Town Lake.

G. Police Emergencies

In the event of a police emergency the Tempe Police Department will follow existing operational policy and procedures:

1. Tempe Police Department Operational Orders
 - a. Major Disaster Plan
2. Tempe Police Department General Orders
3. City of Tempe Emergency Management Plan
4. City of Tempe Emergency Response Plan – Rio Salado

H. Special Operations

1. Boat Recovery

The Tempe Police Department will assume primary responsibility to provide reasonable assistance in the recovery of capsized or damaged watercraft on the Rio Salado Town Lake.

2. Drowning Recovery

In the event of a drowning, equipment recovery, evidence retrieval, or other underwater recovery operations, the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office Dive Team will assume primary responsibility during year one of Town Lake operations. They will be assisted by members of the Tempe Police Department.

3. Lake Evacuation Plan

In the event of an emergency requiring the evacuation of the lake, the Police Department will work in concert with surrounding agencies, as outlined in the Rio Salado Town/Lake Emergency Response Plan, to advise lake users of the emergency and the need to evacuate.

- a) Audible Alarm – research is underway concerning the development of an audible alarm mechanism to notify Lake and Park personnel of the need to implement the evacuation plan.
- b) Downstream Notification – Police and Park Rangers will make all reasonable attempts to notify park users and occupants of the riverbed area in the event of an emergency.
- c) Swift Water Rescue – research is underway concerning the safest method of performing rescue operations on the lake in swift water conditions.